



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

April 4, 2019

The Honorable Eloise Gomez Reyes
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Child Welfare Services – Extended Foster Care: Support \$50 million Request

Dear Chairwoman Reyes:

The County of San Bernardino respectfully requests your support for an additional \$50 million State General Fund to better support transition-aged youth and youth in the Extended Foster Care Program by reducing county child welfare caseloads and for housing navigation and related supports.

Since the Legislature passed AB 12 in 2010 to extend foster care to age 21, our county social work staff have supported young adults in the foster care system. Working with a case manager, transition-aged foster children are linked to services that help them transition to adulthood successfully; however, the lack of full funding to provide reasonable caseload sizes has impacted efforts to achieve the best outcomes for foster youth transitioning to adulthood.

In addition to funding to enable county social work staff to better serve youth in this program, we are requesting funding to meet the challenging housing needs of these youth. Statewide, 40 percent of youth have chosen to live independently in a Supervised Independent Living Placement. Limited tangible resources and little understanding of how to navigate the rental system, young adults in the Extended Foster Care Program often struggle to find and secure safe and affordable housing. An investment of state funds to provide housing navigation services and supports would allow young adults to secure housing and pursue their education and career goals.

For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to support additional funding for the Extended Foster Care Program. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov.

Sincerely,

Curt Hagman
Fourth District Supervisor
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation

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